

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 BUCAR 01011 111552Z

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1961

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

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AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMCONSUL MUNICH

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BUCHAREST 1011

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, RO

SUBJECT: ROMANIAN STATE ELECTIONS

REF: (A) BUCHAREST A-23, FEBRUARY 4, 1975;

(B) BUCHAREST A-42, MARCH 4, 1975

1. SUMMARY. ROMANIA'S STATE ELECTIONS, FIRST SINCE 1969 AND  
FEATQ ING MULTIPLE CANDIDATES FOR THE FIRST TIME, HAVE  
RESULTED IN CONSIDERABLE INCREASE IN NUMBER OF RCP CENTRAL  
COMMITTEE MEMBERS ELECTED AS GRAND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY DEPUTIES  
(164 OUT OF 349-MEMBER BODY). HOWEVER, SOME CC MEMBERS WHO  
FACED OPPOSITION LOST. NEGATIVE VOTE RECORDED AND ACKNOWLEDGED  
THIS TIME, ALTHOUGH SMALL, IS HIGHER THAN IN 1969 ELECTIONS.  
NEXT GOVERNMENTAL CHANGES MAY TAKE PLACE WHEN GNA MEETS  
SHORTLY TO ELECT, INTER ALIA, NEW COUNCIL OF MINISTERS AND  
NEW COUNCIL OF STATE. END SUMMARY.

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PAGE 02 BUCAR 01011 111552Z

2. RESULTS OF FIRST GRAND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (GNA) ELECTIONS TO FEATURE MULTIPLE CANDIDATES ANNOUNCED IN MARCH 11 ROMANIAN PRESS. IN 139 OF THE 349 GNA ELECTORAL DISTRICTS (OR 39.8 PERCENT) VOTERS WERE PRESENTED A CHOICE BETWEEN TWO CANDIDATES. INTERESTINGLY, THE PERCENTAGE OF MULTIPLE CANDIDACIES COUNTRY-WIDE (GNA DISTRICTS PLUS THOSE AT JUDET, CITY AND COMMUNAL PEOPLE'S COUNCILS LEVELS) WAS 76 PERCENT, OR ALMOST DOUBLE THE GNA PERCENTAGE, I.E., THE LOWER THE LEVEL, THE GREATER THE CHOICE. ALL CANDIDATES WERE PLEDGED TO SUPPORT THE PARTY PROGRAM AND OBJECTIVES.

3. ACCORDING TO ELECTORAL STATISTICS RELEASED, 99.96 PERCENT OF ELIGIBLE VOTERS TOOK PART IN ELECTION, OF WHOM 98.8 PERCENT VOTED FOR THE CANDIDATES PROPOSED BY THE SOCIALIST UNITY FRONT (THE UMBRELLA MASS ORGANIZATION RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CONDUCT OF THE ELECTIONS). HOWEVER, SOME 178,053 VOTERS, OR 1.2 PERCENT OF TOTAL, ARE RECORDED AS HAVING CAST NEGATIVE VOTES (DONE BY STRIKING OUT THE NAMES OF ALL CANDIDATES ON THE BALLOT), AN INCREASE FROM THE LAST GNA ELECTION IN 1969 WHEN ONLY 30,748 NEGATIVE VOTES WERE CAST OR .23 PERCENT OF TOTAL. HIGHEST PERCENTAGE OF NEGATIVE VOTES CAME FROM PROVINCIAL INDUSTRIAL AREAS SUCH AS SIBIU, PRAHOVA, CLUJ AND BRASOV JUDETS, SOME OF WHICH HAVE HIGHER RATIOS OF MINORITY GROUPS.

4. MOST INTERESTING ELECTORAL DISTRICTS WERE THOSE 15 GNA DISTRICTS WHERE CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS FACED OPPOSITION. IN ONE BUCHAREST DISTRICT A FULL CC MEMBER (ELENA COJOCARU) WAS RUNNING AGAINST A CANDIDATE CC MEMBER (ELENA NAE); THE FULL CC MEMBER WON. ELSEWHERE 14 OTHER CC MEMBERS RAN AGAINST NON-CC OPPOSITION. SURPRISINGLY, 5 OF THESE (3 FULL, 2 CANDIDATE MEMBERS) WERE DEFEATED. THE LOSERS INCLUDE RADU BELIGAN, DIRECTOR OF BUCHAREST'S NATIONAL THEATRE; GHEORGHE CIUCU, BUCHAREST UNIVERSITY RECTOR; AND SUZANA GADEA, FORMER CHAIRMAN OF NATIONAL WOMEN'S COUNCIL AND NOW PRO-RECTOR, BUCHAREST POLYTECHNIC.

5. AS A RESULT OF THESE ELECTIONS THE PERCENTAGE OF CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS WHO ALSO SIT IN THE GNA HAS INCREASED SIGNIFICANTLY. IN THE PREVIOUS GNA 150 OUT OF THE OLD TOTAL OF 465 MEMBERS (OR 32.3 PERCENT) WERE CC MEMBERS. IN THE NEW GNA, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 BUCAR 01011 111552Z

WHOSE SIZE HAS BEEN REDUCED TO 349 MEMBERS, THERE WILL BE 164 CC MEMBERS (137 FULL, 27 CANDIDATE), OR 46.9 PERCENT. ALL MEMBERS OF THE POLITICAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ARE NOW GNA MEMBERS (WITH BURTICA, ELENA CEAUSESCU, OPREA, PATAN, TROFIN, AND ANDREI ELECTED AS DEPUTIES FOR THE FIRST TIME), AS ARE ALL JUDET FIRST SECRETARIES.

6. RELIGIOUS REPRESENTATION IN THE NEW GNA HAS REMAINED THE

SAME AT SIX, AN INCREASE PERCENTAGEWISE. FAITHS REPRESENTED ARE ROMANIAN ORTHODOX (MOISESCU AND ARAPAS), ROMAN CATHOLIC (AUGUSTIN), JEWISH (ROSEN), GERMAN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN (KLEIN) AND EPISCOPAL REFORMED (PAPP). COMPOSITION OF NEW GNA WILL BE ANALYZED LATER BY AIRGRAM.

7. COMMENT. THE GOR INVESTED MUCH TIME AND ORGANIZATIONAL EFFORT IN THESE ELECTIONS, WHICH SERVED ESSENTIALLY AS A MOBILIZATION AND AGITATION EXERCISE. HOWEVER, IN INTELLECTUAL CIRCLES THE ELECTIONS WERE GREETED WITH CYNICISM, WHILE ELSEWHERE IN SOCIETY, INDIFFERENCE SEEMED TO PREVAIL. IN SPITE OF THE NOVELTY OF MULTIPLE CANDIDACIES, PERSONALITY OFFERED THE ONLY BASIS FOR A CHOICE, AS ALL CANDIDATES WERE CAREFULLY SELECTED AND PLEDGED TO UPHOLD GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS. FACT REMAINS IT WAS MORE OF A CHOICE THAN THE ROMANIAN VOTER WAS OFFERED IN 1969 AND COULD PROVE AN INTERESTING EXPERIMENT, IF CONTINUED AND EXPANDED IN THE FUTURE. AS FOR GNA ITSLEF, IT IS NOW EVEN UNDER GREATER PARTY CONTROL WITH THE NEW INFLUX OF CC MEMBERS WHO WILL SIT AS DEPUTIES. NEXT OCCASION FOR GOVERNMENTAL CHANGES WILL TAKE PLACE WITHIN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS WHEN THE NEW GNA HOLDS ITS FIRST SESSION AND ELECTS A NEW COUNCIL OF MINISTERS, COUNCIL OF STATE, THE SUPREME TRIBUNAL AND THE PROSECUTOR-GENERAL.  
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